

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 13 is objected to because it is unclear what the definite recitation is because of the presence of the indefinite term "allowed to have". Either the pitches have variation or they do not. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15 is indefinite because they do not recite any structure for the formation of the "at least two areas" and therefore does not represent a definite physical structural arrangement. Such areas may be defined as any imaginary surface desired.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Satou (6,517,212).

Satou (6,517,212) discloses a projection apparatus comprising:
first and second light sources (1, 2) for emitting approximately collimated light;
a light mixing member (5) comprised of a plurality of first and second alternately arranged reflection surfaces for directing light from the light sources towards a common direction;

a plurality of lens arrays (6, 7) on the light exiting side of the light mixing member such that different light fluxes reach each lens portion.

A ratio of a pitch between an element formed by the total width of a pair of first and second reflection surfaces to that of a lens array element is $2/1$. The pitches may have variance within manufacturing tolerances.

Edges of the reflective surfaces are aligned with edges of the lens elements

As regards Claim 15-21, since the areas need not be part of any physical surface the alternately arranged reflection surfaces meet the definite limitations of the claims. Imaginary lines may be drawn from these reflective elements however may be desired.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Dowling whose telephone number is 571-272-2116. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THURS.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on 571-272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2851

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/William C. Dowling/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2851

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